

Appl. No. : 10/614,680
Filed : July 3, 2003

REMARKS

Restriction to one of the following groups was required under 35 USC 121:

- Group I Claims 1-23, drawn to a method for recovering acetone from a waste stream from an acetone purification stage, wherein said waste stream comprises mesityl oxide, classified in class 203, subclass 78;
- Group II Claims 24-26, drawn to a method of manufacturing phenol and acetone from cumene according to the Hock process, classified in class 568, subclass 411.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I, that is claims 1-23, with traverse. The Examiner has stated that the combination (Claims 24-26) does not require the particulars of the subcombination (Claims 1-23) as claimed, and therefore has separate utility. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The method for recovering acetone from a waste stream according to claims 1-23 is one process step of the combined process of claims 24-26, which does require the particulars of the subcombination by virtue of the recited dependency on Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant asserts that this restriction is improper. However, if the Examiner maintains this requirement, and Claims of the Group I are subsequently found allowable, Applicant wishes to request rejoinder of the non-elected claims under the rules of M.P.E.P. §821.04. Applicant further reserves the right to pursue the non-elected subject matter in a related application.

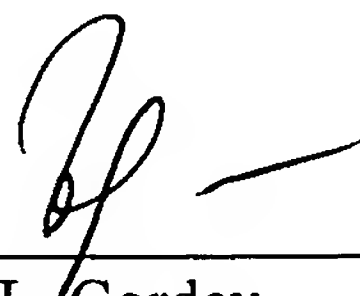
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 28, 2005

By: _____


Marina L. Gordey
Registration No. 52,950
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(805) 547-5580